

PODS Championship  
Innisbrook Golf Resort  
Copperhead Course  
Tampa Bay, Fl

March 7, 2008

Second-round tournament quotes

### AN INTERVIEW WITH MARK CALCAVECCHIA

(Interview by tape.)

Q. You played in the wind and you certainly proved it today, sticking around here up on this leaderboard, it's a tough day out there?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, it is tough. At least it's not cold yet, like it's going to be tomorrow. The greens are still soft. So if you hit some really good shots you can still shoot a decent score out there take. It's tiring. You just got to keep grinding, and you kind of miss a lot of greens, and you got to get up and down. That's the only way to shoot a good score today.

Q. Was this just a day of survival just to get to the house out there.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, pretty much. I was doing great. Then I bogeyed 3 of the last 6. They are just hard holes though, into the wind. It's going to happen, so you just got to keep plugging away.

Q. If you were to take a look at it with the way these conditions might be over the weekend, what number do you think you have to post?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Well, I don't know. It's supposed to be windier tomorrow and 20 degrees colder. Anything around par I think out here is great on any day.

Q. We just can't seem to greet a break with the wind this year, it's just wearing everybody out the last couple of weeks, or what?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, it's been a strange year for weather. It seems to have been pretty cold all year, too. We are going to get another cold front today, I guess, windy, so I don't know. Some days are good. Some days aren't. You just got to take what the weather gives you and make a bunch of pars.

Q. It's a long day out there, you came out of the gate, and you started off with an eagle. Can you talk about that?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** That was bogey, my last two holes before they called it last night. You know you are only going to get a couple of holes in. I bogeyed my last two. That didn't settle well with me.

And I came out this morning, and started over, and just made it to the front of the green on 14 for eagle. So that kind of built me back, and really set the tone for a pretty good day all and all.

Q. Did you start on 14?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I was on the tee. I hit a good driver and 3-wood right in front of the green. That was a nice way to start in the morning.

Q. Thanks.

- - - - -

Q. Somewhere in the Top-10 right now?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Somewhere in the Top 10, I'm sure. It's tough out there. I wasn't really paying attention to the leaderboard, obviously. I was trying to make pars, and find a birdie somewhere. I was downwind. I'm still hitting it pretty good. I'm going to go putt a little bit. It's still not great. Although I don't know what my putt total is, I haven't made a lot. I made some nice six and seven-footer for pars, but I'm still a little shaky a little on it. I'll go practice that a little bit.

Q. 62 tomorrow for your game?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** 62 will be the wind chill factor. There is not going to be any 62's out here today or tomorrow with the wind. Anything around par is a good score on this course.

Q. Somebody that doesn't appreciate it, what are the extra factors that wind like this adds to the task, the checklist that you have to be aware of?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** All kinds of things. It turns into a lot more of a feel game than it does a technique and yardage game. When I'm hitting a 3-wood from 218, and I am trying to hit a 9-iron 175 yards, a lot of it is guesswork when you are playing strong winds. It is guess work. Then you get the occasional gusts that will knock your ball right out of sky. The driver on the par-5 over here barely got over the water, and I smoked it.

Corey Pavin waited 5 minutes and hit one 25 yards by me. He just kind of stood there waited until he caught a lull.

Q. When is the last time that happened?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** The hole before that, when he waited 4 minutes to hit one. You needed to wait until it calmed down, otherwise you weren't getting over the pound. I can't hardly blame him.

Q. Did you do anything on the greens?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** It's always tough to putt in the wind. You catch a gust or some leaves blow by. It's hard to be steady.

Q. Like Kapalua?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, it's not like that. There is enough pine trees out here to kind of block it in some spots. The greens are still soft. They are pretty slow uphill, but lightning quick downhill like always. But the good news is they are still soft. You can make some birdies on the downwind holes. If you par into the holes, you're going to have a good today.

Q. Did you get a double out there?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, a bogey 3. I made hell of a birdie on 4, a 3-iron to about six feet. Then I missed a 3-footer over here on this hole, on 5. Bogey there and parred the last three.

Q. If you were on a one to 10 scale what was yesterday's conditions compared to today?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Well, yesterday, I mean it was easy. Soft greens, hardly any wind at all yesterday, the scores were super low in the morning, then we had the delay and had to go back on out. Even when we went back out it was perfect. The scoring average has got to be at least three shots higher today than yesterday I would think.

Q. There be a lot of buzz on the internet about Tripp Isenhour, did you catch any of that?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** A little, not much. I don't know.

Q. Why do you think there is so much talk about that?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I have no idea. I really don't know the story enough to comment on it. I heard he killed an endangered bird with a golf ball saying, saying that he was trying to scare it a way. It's a bad break for the bird. It seems like there is a lot of other things that people should be worrying about other than that.

Q. If you can compare the conditions yesterday and today?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** A lot. It's like night and day. Yesterday was good scoring. There was a lot of good scores yesterday, obviously. And today, right from the get-go. 3-under is likely to be the low round of the day, or somewhere around there. Somebody might shoot a little bitter than that. It was a lot harder today.

Q. Despite the conditions, you have to be pretty happy with the way you played?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, I am. If you would have told me 4-under before I teed off this afternoon for my second round I would have definitely taken it. I hit a lot of good shots and made a few putts in. You just got to try to make a lot of pars, when you miss greens, you try to get them up and down.

Q. There was a lot of comparison yesterday between the young guns bomb the ball 350 off the tee and the 40 something set that was very successful yesterday, just weigh in on that especially as it relates to this golf course?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Well, all the 40 some odd guys got a lot of experience. We've been out here a long time, and we know how to play golf, that's why we are still out here. The young guys, you can hit it 340 any time you get the yardage, that's a pretty nice advantage to have. That's the future of the game. There is a lot of these young kids out here that hit a mile, that are good. We got a lot of them. It's the future.

Q. Being the defending champion, I imagine you have a particular affinity for this golf course; certainly the confidence that comes with knowing that you won out here?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Well, I've always liked it here. Other than last year, I only had a Top-20 here. But, yes, coming back, defending champion, you always feel like it's nice to come back at a place you won at. I feel like this course is right up my alley. If I keep playing well, and keep making putts, I should have a chance on Sunday.

Q. And the last thing, being a fan favorite in the gallery, being two hours from Gainesville, just tell me how much the orange and blue around the course is and have those folks on your side?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Oh, yes, you see a lot of Gator fans out here. I'm probably not like DiMarco here. I just love playing in Florida period even the wind blowing 30 miles an hour, I still like it.

- - - - -